

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05386 261229Z

42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 /057 W

----- 061574

P R 261150Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4081

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS BEIRUT 5386

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT REGARDING U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON

1. APRIL 25 ISSUE PRO:COMMANDO, PRO-IRAQI DAILY "AL MOHARRIR" (CIRC 35,000 OF WHICH HALF IN LEBANON), CARRIED FRONT-PAGE BANNER STATING: "THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR KNEW ABOUT THE MASSACRE OF AIN AL-RUMANEH THREE DAYS BEFORE IT TOOK PLACE." SUBHEAD ASKED RHETORICALLY "HAS GODLEY PROMISED PIERRE GEMAYEL THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL INTERFERE IF BATTLE DEVELOPS UNFAVORABLY TO THE PHALANGISTS?" STORY WAS BUILT AROUND ONE-SENTENCE REPORT PUBLISHED PREVIOUS DAY IN INDEPENDENT WEEKLY "AL HAWADETH" (CIRC 65,000 OF WHICH 15,000 IN LEBANON) WHICH, UNDER HEADLINE "TOP SECRET," HAD REPORTED THAT IN APRIL 10 MEETING WITH RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN MEDIA AMBASSADOR GODLEY SAID "WORST THING ABOUT LEBANESE SITUATION IS THAT PALESTINIANS ARE SUPPLIED WITH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS THAT ARE BETTER THAN WEAPONS POSSESSED BY LEBANESE ARMY." LENGTHY "AL MOHARRIR" UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05386 261229Z

REPORT USED THIS AS NUCLEUS FOR RHETORICAL QUESTIONS AND

SPECULATIONS LEADING READER TO THE CONCLUSION, BUT NOT
ACTUALLY SUPPORTING, STATEMENT IN BANNER HEADLINE.

2. PAO CONTACTED MINISTRY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING
STORY AND LEARNED THAT MINISTRY ALREADY HAD DIRECTED
ATTORNEY GENERAL TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST BOTH "AL MOHARRIR"
AND A "AL HWADETH" FOR VIOLATIONS OF LEBANESE PRESS LAW IN
CONNECTION THESE ARTICLES. PAO POINTED OUT "AL HAWADETH" HAD
NOT ACTUALLY PRINTED FALSE STATEMENT, BUT MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR
OF PRESS SAID "WE WANT TO TEACH THEM A LESSON ANYWAY." IN
CONSULTATION WITH MINISTRY, EMBASSY IS SUBMITTING REQUEST
FOR RETRACTION BY "AL MOHARRIR" ONLY. MINISTRY INFORMS
THAT UNDER LEBANESE LAW "AL MOHARRIR" MUST PRINT RETRACTION
IN SAME SPACE OR FACE FURTHER LEGAL CHARGES.

3. CONTENTS OF "AL MOHARRIR" STORY GENERALLY SAME AS PICKED
UP BY IRAQ NEWS AGENCY AND REPORTED BY FBIS FROM AMMAN
APRIL 25.
GODLEY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AMBASSADORS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT05386
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750147-0498
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750412/aaaaalii.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORT REGARDING U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, (GODLEY, G MCMURTRIE)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006